

My name is Petrina Bamfo, and I am from Manchester. I am also part of Gen Action Interns at Planned Parenthood Votes! CT, and am a college student at UConn Stamford

I stand in support of HB 6616: An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status.. Expanding access to HUSKY regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 26; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age. If Connecticut wants a future that includes healthy families and a stable, thriving and growing workforce that is ready to meet the needs of our future, Connecticut must ensure that these individuals have access to health coverage.

As the descendants of two immigrant parents who come from a small country in Africa, the word immigrant and unable to were words that were never not used in our household. It wasn't until recently that I first hand witnessed how unfair the policies that should be rights in our state are. My grandfather is an 82 year old man who is also an immigrant from Ghana and as an elderly man there is more need for medical care and attention. My aunt, who is his primary caregiver, pays for all his medical needs, as well as the medicine prescribed to him with her own money out of pocket. This responsibility can be very detrimental to one due to the fact that with the rising economy, everything has risen in price and paying for prescriptions out of pocket has become very expensive and hard to manage. No one should have to choose between buying groceries for the week or paying for their loved ones' needed medicine. The ability to go to the doctor, receive health aid, be given prescriptions, are all things that should already be given rights. America, and specifically the state of Connecticut, thrives off of the work immigrants have added to our community so it is time to stand with them and give back for all they have done for our community.

This legislation would greatly help the lives of many immigrants and their families. It would allow immigrants to be treated equally, and receive the care that should be guaranteed to them. One's nationality should not dictate the treatment they receive, especially not from the government. Legislators should support this bill because this is a growing need and struggle that needs to be tended to. Its dehumanizing to not be able to receive medical help when you most need it all because of your nationality.

I support HB 6616 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,
Petrina Bamfo